MARCH 29 IS PALM SUNDAY. We begin worship experiencing the triumphant mood of the first Palm Sunday and end by ushering in the somber mood of Holy Week. The scripture readings are Mark 11:1-11 and Mark 14:66-72. Dr. Brill’s message is “Forgive Us/Help Us Forgive.”

APRIL WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9 AND 11 AM

Every Sunday: Worship at 9 and 11 AM, Sunday School for children 3 years through 7th grade, adult-supervised care in Noah’s Nursery.

- 9 AM: Spirited Traditional Worship features hymns, choir anthems, and organ and piano music.
- 11 AM: New Horizons Worship features the use of projected images and music led by the Anchored in Faith worship band.

April 5: Celebrate the good news of Easter! Dr. Brill’s sermon, “Choosing Hope”, is based on John 20:1-18. On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. (There is nursery care, but no Sunday School, on Easter.)

April 12: The morning message is based upon the story of Doubting Thomas as told in John 20:19-31.

April 19: The sermon is entitled, “The Raincoat Man”, based on Psalm 46. Maya Lilly Smith will be baptized at 11 AM.

April 26: We will be led in worship at both services by 28 young musicians from the UCC congregation in Crystal Lake, IL. Their “Alleluia Sound” vocal choir and “Good Vibrations” bell choir will each present several selections.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: Can you host two high school youth in your home, the evening of April 25? The responsibilities entail picking them up at the church after their choir practice, giving them a snack and a comfortable place to sleep, breakfast the next morning, and transporting them back to the church in time for their rehearsal on Sunday morning. Please sign up at the Welcome Center so we can provide warm hospitality to our friends from Crystal Lake, Illinois.

CONGRATULATIONS, ALUCC CHOIR! Our vocal choir, under the direction of Mary Fancher, has been selected to participate in the WCLV Jubilation Choir Festival. They will be performing several works in a concert on Thursday, May 7 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland; the concert begins at 8 PM. The choir festival will also be broadcast on WCLV.

SPRING FOOD DRIVE CONCLUDES on Sunday, March 29. Food is purchased at wholesale prices according to the needs and requests from 3 agencies: Haven Center in Lorain, a homeless shelter for families; St. Paul’s UCC in Ohio City Cleveland; and CRS in Avon Lake (Community Resource Services). You may give with cash, check or credit card.
A WORD FROM KELLY

In Wednesday morning Bible Study we have been studying the gospel of Luke. More than any other gospel, Luke shines a light on the prayer life of Jesus. We see Jesus taking time for prayer regularly, getting away when he needs to so that he can focus on his communication with God. It is one of Jesus’ greatest lessons for us: consider that even Jesus needed to find time, make time, to nurture his spiritual life.

And, perhaps even more startling, the book of Genesis causes us to wonder if even God’s own life has a sense of rhythm and balance. The act of creation took six days, and on the seventh day, we’re told, God rested. God stopped. God took a day to look around, to assess what had been made.

Why do we live as if it’s more virtuous to be on the go than to rest? Do our own lives have balance? Is there a rhythm between activity and assessment?

This spring, as you contemplate the wonders of the natural world, I encourage you to take some time to reflect upon your own life. It was a long, hard winter, and we will find such joy this spring in the buds of trees and the green shoots pushing through the hard ground. What has been lying dormant within your life? What new growth is aching to be revealed?

Such discernment takes time. Listening for God requires practice – it takes a while before we learn to still the voices in our own minds long enough to hear what God is saying.

Chances are, you make time in your daily routines for other pursuits. Most of us find ourselves wasting time by channel-surfing or web-surfing, neither of which is fulfilling. Try spending some time this spring in prayer, meditation and introspection. Consider it a spring-cleaning for your soul!

~Kelly

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

After the announcement from Valerie Tanzilli that she will retire June 30, the Personnel Committee met with Dr. Brill to review our current staff configuration. The decision was made to replace Valerie with two part-time employees: an Office Manager and a Business Manager. 17 persons applied for these two positions, and interviews were held with ten applicants. Because there were some excellent choices, the decisions were extremely difficult!

The committee is delighted to announce that two persons have been hired. They will begin work officially on July 1, but will be able to work with Valerie and in other ways preparing for the jobs this spring.

The new Office Manager is Karyn Jacobson. Karyn has a Bachelor’s degree in Public Administration/Personnel Management from Miami University (of Ohio). She and her husband Eric are members of Avon Lake UCC and have three sons.

The new Business Manager is Jill Eston. Jill has a degree in accounting from Lorain County Community College. She and her husband Tom are members of Avon Lake UCC and have a daughter and a son.

Welcome, Karyn and Jill! More information about job descriptions and new office hours will be available later this summer.

The congregation will have an opportunity to officially thank Valerie on Sunday, May 31. Watch for more information!

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS!

Six members have completed 50 hours of training focused on listening and confidentiality; they were commissioned on March 8. Congratulations to: Erin Ford, Debbie George, David Holmes, Denise Mathews, Grace Miller, and Janelle Schubmehl.

If you would like to be referred to a Stephen Minister who would accompany you through a time of life change or crisis, please contact Kelly Brill (pastor@avonlakeucc.org; 440-933-3241)
**PRIMETIMERS LUNCH** will be on Wednesday, April 15, at Noon in the Gathering Space. Cost of the meal is $5 payable at the door. A reservation is needed by noon on Monday, April 13. Reservations may be made on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or by calling the church office. Primetimers is a group of mostly retired members who get together once a month to share a meal and the fellowship of each other's company. But anyone of any age and friends are always welcome. Don't miss out!

**INQUIRER’S CLASSES:** Inquirers Classes for prospective new members will be held on April 19 and 26. Both classes will be held following New Horizons worship in the Chapel at 12:10. The first of two classes will focus on information about the United Church of Christ – history and beliefs, and we will share with you some of the current projects of our congregation. On April 26, we will introduce the staff, current leaders of the church will speak, and a tour of the facilities will be offered. The Board of Membership will provide a light lunch both days. Those who wish to proceed with church membership will join on Sunday, May 3 at either our 9:00 AM Spirited Traditional service or our 11:00 AM New Horizons service. Babysitting is offered with advance notice. For more details or to register for these classes, please contact Tim Schulz, Membership and Media Coordinator, at membership@avonlakeucc.org

**LET’S GET CONNECTED:** The Membership Team would like to help in getting people connected with others who have similar interests. Please join us Sunday, May 3rd as the Membership Team hosts Coffee Hour and a getting connected event! To get it all started, you’ll find inserts in your Sunday Bulletins and at the Welcome Center with some example of group event ideas. Some great examples are getting connected with people who like to do specific sport activities, arts and crafts, parents with young children and/or people who would like to go on road trips or attend theater productions together. Whatever the idea, we value your feedback! Please let us know what you might be interested in. Drop the insert in the offering plate, or fill one out at the Welcome Center by Sunday, April 26th. Thanks for your help!!

**FEBRUARY FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avon Lake UCC</th>
<th>Income ($75,816)</th>
<th>Expenses ($79,385)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Month</td>
<td>February, 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>($148,958)</td>
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**ARE WE ON TRACK?**

A message from your Finance Team: Each month we provide a glance at our income and expenses, to keep the congregation informed as to our financial health. As of the end of February, as you can see, expenses were slightly ahead of income.

If you have not yet made a financial commitment to the church, please consider doing so. We urge all worshipers, participants and members to begin the practice of regular giving. If you are behind on your pledge, we hope you can catch up as soon as possible. And please know that we are keeping a close eye on our spending!

Your giving makes all of our ministry and mission possible. Because of you, our Adult Education programs are multiplying, our worship celebrations are carefully planned, and our building and grounds are well-maintained. Thank you for your support, and your sharing of time, talent, and treasure.
UPCOMING ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (ACE) AT ALUCC

All are welcome! Bring a friend.

For more information on each program, check the weekly Sunday bulletin, the weekly membership email, or the church website.

- **Adult Bible Study**, led by Senior Minister Kelly Brill. Wednesdays, 10:30 am-11:30 am in the Gathering Space.

- **Create Your Own Prayer Journal**, led by Cynthia Kotora. Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Learn how keeping a prayer log can reveal the mysterious (and sometimes not so mysterious) ways God works in our lives and how many things we can be thankful for. The cost is $10.00 to cover the cost of the journal and supplies. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

- **Minding the Gap.** Sundays, 10:10 am-10:50 am: “The Old Testament Prophets: Who They Were, What Message They Preached, and How They Speak to Us Still,” led by Lou Suarez. April 12-May 3. The class will focus on the historical context in which the prophets wrote and spoke and the impact their prophecies had on early Christianity and New Testament evangelism. Each class will include a brief lecture, readings from Scripture, and discussion.

- **First Tuesday Book Study**
  
- *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor, April 7, 7 pm at the Sheffield Lake home of Deb and Lou Suarez. With her characteristic charm and literary wisdom, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and explore all that God has to teach us “in the dark.”

- *Stealing Jesus: How Fundamentalism Betrays Christianity* by Bruce Bawer, May 5, 7 pm at the Sheffield Lake home of Deb and Lou Suarez. Bawer shows how the supposedly "traditional" beliefs of American fundamentalism are dramatically at odds with the values that Jesus actually spread.

- **ALUCC Book Club.** *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd, Tuesday, April 28 at 7 pm. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, *The Invention of Wings* offers an unflinching look at a devastating wound in American history, through an exploration of the struggles of women for liberation, empowerment, and expression.

  Faith is a journey. Walk in wonder, and expect the unexpected.

**CHRISTIAN ED NEWS**

Come experience God’s Love in Action at ALUCC’s 2015 G-Force Vacation Bible School! VBS is coming **June 22-26** for children ages 4 years old through just finishing 4th grade. Our adventure this year is called G-Force and we will be discovering God’s Love in Action. Each morning at 9:30, we will gather in the G-Force Zone with Coach and her excitable assistant, Checkers the Cheetah. From there we will rotate to different stations to hear our Bible story, sign new songs, explore science, play games, create crafts and eat snacks. Registration begins for our member’s children and grandchildren on April 1 and open registration begins April 15. **Sign up early – space is limited and we will fill up!** Download a registration form here: [http://avonlakeucc.org/children/vbs/](http://avonlakeucc.org/children/vbs/). However, before we can have VBS, we need a VBS team! Would you like to help plan, decorate, or assist at VBS this year? There are lots of opportunities, big and small, for adults and youth. Ready to join the G-Force team? Contact Julie Reimer, Dir. of Christian Education, at 933-3241 or [christianed@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:christianed@avonlakeucc.org). Let’s work together and discover God’s love in action!

**SUMMER CAMP:** Are you ready for summer? Looking forward to swimming and hiking? Do you want to eat s’mores around a campfire? Then you need to sign up for a OCUCC Summer Camp! Registration is going on now at [www.journeythehills.org](http://www.journeythehills.org). Our goal this year is to send 100 people to camp! The Christian Education Team offers an incentive fund that pays ½ the cost of most camps for our members. What a great deal! **Register by March 31 for the lowest rate.** Don’t delay because some of the most popular camps will get filled! After registering online, don’t forget to fill out the bright blue ALUCC Camp Registration Form (outside the Chapel or find it on the website) and turn it into the church office. If you don’t fill out a blue form, Julie won’t know you’re going to camp and the church can’t send your incentive money to camp – so register online, fill out the blue form, and have a wonderful time at camp!
HEAVENLY HELPERS: Heavenly Helpers, a Mission Board outreach, this group provides assistance for members by members (transportation, visits, needs as requested). A Chairperson is needed to coordinate this program; additional volunteers are always welcome. Call the church office or contact Judy Reich or Cheryl Updegraff if you can help.

PRAYER LIST: Prayers help connect us to God and to one another. Please keep these members and friends in your prayers this month. Many members want to know how the folks on the prayer list are doing. So if you submit the name of a friend or relative, be sure to send an update by each Drummer deadline. We keep names on the prayer list one month at a time, so that the list will stay current and updated. To keep your loved one’s name on the list, kindly send us an update (call or email the church office: 440-933-3241; office@avonlakeucc.org)! Thank you.

GOD’S BLESSINGS, LOVE AND COMFORT FOR: Mary Ann Agler, Tom & Isy Beal, Kris Bradford (friend of Chris Spaetzel), Patty Byron (friend of Spaetzels & Fries, treatment for cancer), Cara Burgess, Paul Dunford's niece's husband Ben, recovering from surgery, Peg Ebner, (recuperating from surgery), Gladys Flynn, Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Calvin Holliday, diagnosed with cancer (friend of Mark Spaetzel), Jean Jackson (health concerns), Marilyn Jones (Paul Dunford’s sister recuperating from surgery), Barb Lindsay in rehab following surgery, Bob Loar (Gary’s brother undergoing tests), Joshua MacDonald (nephew of Scott & Shelley MacDonald, recuperating from surgery), Dick & Barb Merriman (former members with health issues), Rhoda Montgomery (friend of Kelly Brill), diagnosed with cancer; John & Joyce Parsons (health concerns), Rob Patton (recuperating from surgery), Virginia Spencer (Maryln Sommer’s mother recuperating from surgery), Melissa Thomas (friend of Kary Kandra), in hospice care, Kim Trask (friend of Updegraффs), and all who are homebound or in residential facilities.

Sympathy to:
• Katie Schulz & her family on the death of her uncle, Robert Ulman, March 9.
• Teri Patton on the death of her friend, George Tanner.

Please remember our members who are homebound and in rehab or nursing home care.

PARISH NURSE NOTES:
• Diabetic Support Group: meets Wednesday, April 8th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space.
• Parish Nurse Hours: Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.; Sundays between services. Evenings by Appointment. Contact information: cheryrupdegraff@oh.rr.com or call the church office.

RUMMAGE SALE: Our annual church Rummage Sale is right around the corner and everyone's help is needed. It will be held on Tuesday, April 14th 2015 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Please drop off your good used clothing and household items on Saturday, April 11th in the Fellowship Hall. The presale will be held on Sunday, April 12th after each service for everyone to browse for bargains. On Tuesday, April 14th we ask for two pies and a pot of chili from each Women’s Circle and baked goods, especially in small sizes. There are plenty of opportunities to help in the kitchen or on the floor. Please call Patty Greene (933-6637) if you have any questions.

MAY DRUMMER DEADLINE is Monday, April 27. If you would like any information included in the next monthly newsletter, please send it to the church office by email (office@avonlakeucc.org) or be sure to bring your items in by this date. News items/reminders may also be submitted for weekly email updates. (If you are not receiving the weekly email updates, please send your email address to membership@avonlakeucc.org.)
JOIN TEAM ALUCC as our church partners with other churches to build a new Habitat for Humanity house in Elyria starting this April. You may participate at several levels:

1) CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY. Make a donation this Easter. Monies collected from the Easter Offering will be sent to Lorain County Habitat for Humanity. Easter—a time of renewed hope. Your contribution will make new life possible for a family in a decent and affordable home. The ALUCC Thrift Shop will match your contributions dollar for dollar up to $5,000.

2) PARTICIPATE IN THE BUILD. TEAM ALUCC needs your skills. From carpentry, dry walling or painting to clean up and cookies everyone can contribute in some fashion at their skill level.

3) SPREAD THE WORD AND JOIN THE FUN. Everyone that participated last year will tell there is something deeply satisfying about working as part of build team with fellow church friends and members watching a new home being built from the ground up to the final shingle on the roof, all leading to the special day the family actually moves in.

4) TEAM ALUCC will make a presentation during both services on Palm Sunday, March 29th. They will be present to answer your questions and to sign you up to participate at the table near the Welcome Center Palm Sunday, Easter and the Sunday after Easter. You may contribute financially using the Easter Envelope.

Questions also may be answered by calling ALUCC HfH Coordinator Doug Rider at 440-933-2758 or email drider520@oh.rr.com.

QUIET GIVER

Our Quiet Giver grew up as the youngest of six children in Northwest Illinois. (The whole community had this strange attraction to pretzels—it is the name of their high school teams and mascot—really!) She attended the University of Iowa and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Microbiology. While in school she met that special person. They moved up to Minneapolis and got married—over 27 years ago now. She is one that loves to learn and went back to school getting her Masters Degree in Scientific and Technical Communication from the University of Minnesota. After starting a family (a son and daughter) they moved to Avon Lake in 1997. She eventually started her own business working from home indexing books and has added editing services as well.

Our Quiet Giver believes in giving back. She is a past President of the Eastview PTA, has worked on many school levies, has participated on several church committees and is past Moderator of our church too.

The couple are music and outdoor lovers. They enjoy concerts, kayaking and hiking. They enjoy rooting for the Big Ten (their son is a junior at Purdue and their daughter will be attending Ohio State this fall). They like playing cards and I recently saw them at Cross Training attending Paul Ruben’s class on golf.

Do you know our Quiet Giver? (The February Quiet Giver was Al Lindsay.)

LOST COATS: If you have a black full length winter coat with fur trim on the collar and gloves in the pockets, please check and make sure that it is yours. If the coat you have is not yours, please bring it to the office and an exchange will be made. Also, does anyone have a cape they are missing? Please contact Valerie in the Office (933-3241) if you have information about either of these items.

SALE BY THE LAKE—SAVE THE DATE! The Avon Lake City Schools Foundation will be hosting its second annual Sale by the Lake on Saturday May 2 from 9am to 4pm in the High School’s Auxiliary Gym located at 175 Avon Belden Road. This exciting event includes art to antiques, handmade to homemade, toys to trinkets, clothes to crafts, edible, wearable, collectible, saleable items! Join us for this delightful community event supporting educational enrichment opportunities throughout the District! Learn more about the Avon Lake City Schools Foundation online at www.avonlakecityschools.org/foundation.
**MEMORIAL DAY IN AVON LAKE:** We are looking for Blue Star Mothers to pay tribute to at the 2015 Memorial Day Ceremony in Avon Lake. Blue Star Mothers have sons or daughters who are serving or have served for the Armed Forces. Blue Star Mothers please contact Jennifer Fenderbosch, a member of the American Legion, Post 211 Auxiliary at 440-933-4644 or jgf51@wowway.com.

**NEW PEW PADS**
We introduced new pew pads in January. On the new pew pads are space for current members to leave updated contact information. Complete this section if you have a new email, phone # or address. Below that is a space to leave prayer requests or messages for the office. There is no need for you to sign-in or complete a pew pad form if current members to leave updated contact information. Complete this section if you have a new email, phone # or address. Below that is a space leave prayer requests or messages for the office. There is no need for you to sign-in or complete a pew pad form if you do not have new information for church staff. The top of the pew pads are for our guests to leave their information so that we can welcome them to Avon Lake UCC and add them to our mailings.

**BUILDING SECURITY:** As a reminder, we are going to be keeping the front door locked when Jack & Jill Preschool is in session. If you come to the church building during that time, please ring the doorbell, the small button above the handicap button. If no one responds, please call 933-3241. We regret any inconvenience, but we are sure that you understand! If you leave the church at night, please lock the doors and turn off the lights!

**DID YOU KNOW**...that you can contribute to the church through an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)? Many people like to pay their bills automatically. It’s convenient for you, and the church appreciates the steady income throughout the seasons. Contact Valerie Tanzilli in the church office for more information.

Marty Kennedy and Calvin Yeager.

**GENERAL SYNOD 2015 NEEDS YOU!!!** Do you have a smile you are willing to share? Do you like meeting other people of faith? Do you have several hours available the end of June, 2015? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we need you to consider volunteering for General Synod. General Synod, the United Church of Christ's Annual Meeting is taking place June 26-30 at the Cleveland Convention Center. The process is simple...check out the volunteer opportunities at [http://synod.uccpages.org/overview-of-volunteer.html](http://synod.uccpages.org/overview-of-volunteer.html) or in the brochure at the Welcome Center. Sign up to volunteer and then register for Synod. You will be notified in late April of your volunteer assignment. If you have any questions, send a message to 2015UCCGSVolunteers@gmail.com or talk to Sandi Gerhan.